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UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
COMPUTER CENTRE

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

DATE : WEEK ENDED 24 AUGUST 1972
AUTHORIZATION : DIRECTOR OF THE COMPUTER CENTRE

1 OPERATIONS

1.1 PDP-10 SYSTEM

FRIDAY 18 AUGUST CARD READER MAINTENANCE, NO BATCH PROCESSING UNTIL 1310.

MONDAY 21 AUGUST DISK PACK MAINTENANCE UNTIL 1000, SYSTEM SETUP AND SYMBIONT LOADING 1000-1022.

TUESDAY 22 AUGUST DISK PACK MAINTENANCE UNTIL 0942, SYSTEM FAILURE, OFFLINE 0942-1023, SYSTEM SETUP AND SYMBIONT LOADING 1023-1042, CARD READER MAINTENANCE, NO BATCH PROCESSING 1850-2210.

WEDNESDAY 23 AUGUST SYSTEM OFFLINE 1715-1745, MONITOR RELOADED.

THURSDAY 24 AUGUST CARD READER MAINTENANCE ALL DAY, NO BATCH PROCESSING UNTIL 1300, SETUP OF NEW SERIES OF ACCOUNTING FILES UNTIL 0935, SYSTEM SETUP AND SYMBIONT LOADING, 0935-1005.

SCHEDULE FOR FORTHCOMING WEEK: MAINTENANCE 0700-0900
OPERATIONS 0930-2300,

1.2 GE-225 SYSTEM

SCHEDULE FOR FORTHCOMING WEEK: MAINTENANCE 0700-0830, 2000-2130
OPERATIONS 0900-2000, 2130-2400,

2 AUTHORIZATION TO USE REMOTE TERMINALS

AT PRESENT, ANY USER AUTHORIZED TO WORK ON A REMOTE TERMINAL (OTHER THAN THE PUBLIC TERMINALS) CAN ACCESS HIS PROJECT FROM ANY TERMINAL CONNECTED TO THE SYSTEM. IN THE PAST THIS HAS CREATED SOME PROBLEMS.

IN ORDER TO PROVIDE DEPARTMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS WITH ADEQUATE CONTROL OVER THE USE OF THEIR OWN TERMINALS AND STILL ALLOW USERS THE SAME FLEXIBILITY OF ACCESS THEY CURRENTLY ENJOY, THE CENTRE WILL INTRODUCE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES.

- (A) SUBMISSION OF A COMPLETED 'AUTHORITY TO USE REMOTE TERMINAL' FORM ESTABLISHES THE NOMINATED PROJECT AS A REMOTE TERMINAL PROJECT WITH A LOGGED OUT FILE STORAGE LIMIT OF 37.5 K WORDS, ONLY 15 SUCH PROJECTS PER TERMINAL CAN BE ESTABLISHED. ACCESS WILL INITIALLY BE RESTRICTED TO THE TERMINAL FOR WHICH AUTHORIZATION IS GIVEN.
- (B) IF A USER WISHES TO ACCESS HIS REMOTE TERMINAL PROJECT(S) FROM ANOTHER TERMINAL, HE SHOULD COMPLETE AN 'AUTHORITY TO USE ALTERNATE TERMINAL' FORM (OBTAINABLE FROM THE CENTRE), HAVE IT SIGNED BY THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OR ORGANIZATION WHOSE TERMINAL HE WISHES TO USE, AND RETURN IT TO THE CENTRE.

THIS MERELY ALLOWS USE OF THE TERMINAL. IT DOES NOT INCLUDE THE PROJECT AS ONE OF THE 15 ORIGINATING FROM THE TERMINAL.

THESE CHANGES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AS FROM MONDAY 18 SEPTEMBER. FROM THAT DATE THE SYSTEM WILL ALLOW ACCESS ONLY IN RESPECT OF AUTHORIZATIONS HELD BY THE CENTRE.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT DEPARTMENTS THAT ALLOW THEIR TERMINAL TO BE USED BY OTHERS ARE ENTITLED TO COLLECT AN ADDITIONAL 60 CENTS PER HOUR CONNECT TIME (\$1.20 PER HOUR FOR EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS) DIRECT FROM THE USER TO HELP DEFRAY MAINTENANCE CHARGES.

3 BATCH

A NEW VERSION OF BATCH IS TO BE RELEASED. THE ONLY CHANGES IN THIS VERSION ARE CONCERNED WITH IMPROVING QUIT AND EOJ PROCEDURES AND PERMITTING THE USE OF MAGNETIC TAPE FOR INPUT. A PROGRAM HAS BEEN WRITTEN FOR STACKING OF BATCH JOBS ON MAGNETIC TAPE USING THE GE-225. IT IS INTENDED THAT RESULTS SHOULD BE IDENTICAL WITH THE PRESENT SYSTEM. ALTHOUGH IF IT IS FOUND THAT A SUBMITTED DECK CONTAINS ILLEGAL CHARACTERS, A LOG OF THE JOB INDICATING THE ILLEGAL CHARACTERS MAY BE RETURNED WITH THE JOB. THIS LOG WILL HAVE A FILE IDENTIFICATION INCLUDING THE JOBD AND .JOB CARD IMAGES. ILLEGAL CARDS WILL BE LISTED, TOGETHER WITH THEIR NUMBER

AND A FOLLOWING LINE WILL INDICATE THE LOCATION OF THE ILLEGAL CHARACTER(S). THE END OF THE JOB WILL BE INDICATED BY A SUMMARY THAT INCLUDES THE NUMBER OF CARDS, THE NUMBER OF BAD CARDS AND THE NUMBER OF BAD CHARACTERS.

4 POP-10 FORTRAN IV ERROR

IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES THE 640TH CHARACTER OF AN INPUT DATA FILE IS IGNORED. THIS OCCURS ONLY IF THE FIRST LINE OF THE FILE IS SKIPPED THROUGH THE USE OF A FORMAT STATEMENT BEGINNING WITH ONE OR MORE SLASHES. THIS ERROR MAY BE AVOIDED BY CHANGING
FORMAT(/ . . .
TO
FORMAT (1X/ . . .
WHEN THE FIRST LINE IS TO BE SKIPPED.

5 BMD ERRORS CORRECTED

5.1 BMD020

TWO ERRORS IN BMD020 HAVE BEEN CORRECTED. THEY WERE A FAILURE TO READ DATA FROM A DISK FILE, AND INCORRECT INTERPRETATION OF BOOLEAN CONDITION CARDS.

5.2 BMD02R

AN ERROR THAT RESULTED IN THE PARTIAL CORRELATION FOR VARIABLES NOT IN THE EQUATION NOT BEING OUTPUT HAS BEEN CORRECTED. THE ERROR OCCURRED ONLY IN CERTAIN CASES WHEN LABELS WERE PROVIDED BY THE USER, AND DID NOT AFFECT COMPUTATION.

6 NEW VERSIONS OF SYSTEM PROGRAMS

NEW VERSIONS OF THE FOLLOWING SYSTEM PROGRAMS WERE IMPLEMENTED ON THURSDAY 24 AUGUST: LOGIN, ACCOUN, LIMIT, IDENT, QUIT, LIST, PASSWORD AND FINISH. SEVERAL OF THE ACCOUNTING FILES HAVE BEEN DIVIDED INTO A NUMBER OF SMALLER FILES IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE DELAYS OF MULTIPLE ACCESS; AT THE SAME TIME SOME SMALLER CHANGES WERE INTRODUCED INTO ACCOUN AND FINISH.

(A) ACCOUN

A JOB NUMBER MAY NOW BE ACCEPTED AS AN ARGUMENT, FOR EXAMPLE,
.ACCOUNT(FULL) 20

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(B) FINISH

IF THE TERMINAL JOB HAS GIVEN AN IDENT COMMAND AND NO CORRESPONDING QUIT, FINISH WARNS THE USER AND GIVES HIM A CHANCE TO ABORT THE LOGOUT. THE CORRESPONDING PATCH TO EOJ REQUIRES ADDITIONAL CHANGES TO THE MONITOR AND BATCH, AND WILL BE IMPLEMENTED SHORTLY.